

Text 1: The following extract *'It's so hard to be a traveller'* is an entry from a travel blog written by Ben Groundwater. Ben Groundwater is a backpacker who travels the world reporting on the best backpacking destinations. The text has been retrieved from *The Age* website. Line numbering has been added.

1 **The Age**

2 **It's so hard to be a traveller**

3 I just had the worst holiday - seriously, you wouldn't believe some of the stuff that
4 happened. Almost makes you wonder why you do it.

5 It all started at the airport, of course. Costs a bomb to get out there - almost as much as my
6 bloody flight. Then you have to wait in line forever, the chick behind the counter was rude,
7 and the duty-free shopping... Ha! I reckon it'd be cheaper in town.

8 I don't know why I keep going with these "budget" carriers. Wouldn't know customer
9 service if you hit them over the head with it. You have to pay for water (is that even legal?) -
10 you have to pay for your food, pay to watch something on telly ... I hear over in Europe they
11 even want you to pay to go the dunny! And that's once you get past all the hidden charges
12 in the first place. These blokes have got no shame.

13 I mean, I got to fly to Asia for a couple of hundred bucks, but really, I don't know if it's worth
14 it, all the stuff you have to put up with.

15 So we got there, finally, but the hassles had only just started. First of all, the bloody cab
16 driver hasn't got a clue where he's going - barely speaks a word of English, or so he reckons,
17 then he takes us on the "tourist route". Ends up costing about \$10, which is a total rip-off.

18 The hotel ... oh, I s'pose it's all right. Nothing like the brochure, but I guess you've got to
19 expect that, especially in these sort of countries. Managed to make the bloke behind the
20 desk understand what was going on, and our room had a real toilet, not one of those squat
21 jobs, so you can't complain too much.

22 Around the city though... Geez, it makes you realise how lucky you are to be Australian.
23 Everything's falling apart - there's electricity wires hanging all over the shop, people look like
24 they're having their family dinners on the side of the road, there's rubbish everywhere. I
25 dunno how they do it.

26 And you get hassled everywhere you go. You can't leave the hotel without someone trying
27 to get money off you. "The big white ATM" I call myself. Kids want money, blokes want
28 money to be in a photo with you, shopkeepers are always trying to rip you off... It's just a
29 nightmare. Is it that much to ask for some peace and quiet?

30 We tried to eat some of the food there, but you have to be careful. This lot have got no idea
31 about refrigeration or anything. There's some nasty stuff out there. I don't know how I
32 didn't get sick really, although I did stick to ham sandwiches wherever I could.

33 We did a few day tours, just to get out of the city, and I guess they were OK. You've seen
34 one set of ruins though, you've seen 'em all. And then of course you feel like you have to tip
35 the guide whatever he was like.

36 Bloody tourists were everywhere unfortunately. I dunno if it was school holidays or what,
37 but you wouldn't even know you were overseas half the time. It's just ruining the
38 destination, it's a real pity. I probably won't be back. Try somewhere else.

39 Getting home was more of the same. Nightmare trying to get out to the airport, then we
40 have to wait in the crappy "low-cost carrier terminal", which is about as luxurious as my
41 backyard shed. Usual story once we were on board, too, having to pay for all the stuff that
42 you'd expect to get for free.

43 You really wonder if it's worth all the hassle sometimes.

44 Still, Vietnam next year - got a cheap flight. Hopefully that'll be better.

45 Posted by Ben Groundwater
46 May 19, 2010 9:47 AM

The Age – It's hard to be a traveller: Practice SAC Questions

1. What is the register and the social purpose of this text? Explain the connection between the register and the social purpose. (4 marks)
2. Who is the intended audience of this text? What linguistic features show this intended audience to be true? (4 marks)
3. Comment on two different features of spoken discourse used in this text. Why has the author used these features? (5 marks)
4. Comment on the use of prosodic features in this text. (2 marks)
5. Comment on the use of simile in lines 41 – 42 in relation to the text's social purpose (2 marks).